

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.

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S/S-O: D. MACK

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UNCLAS STATE 016746 TOSEC 010171

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: MPLA AIR FORCE

FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF WIRE SERVICE CLIPS WHICH APPEARED
TODAY REGARDING FORMATION OF AN MPLA AIR FORCE:

QUOTE - JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, JAN. 22, REUTER -
THE SOVIET-BACKED POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION
OF ANGOLA (MPLA) TODAY ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF
AN AIR FORCE TO BE MANNED BY MERCENARY COMBAT PILOTS,
ACCORDING TO LUANDA RADIO.

THE REPORT, MONITORED HERE, SAID THE MERCENARIES WOULD FLY
RUSSIAN-BUILT MIG 21 JETS IN THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE'S AIR
FORCE (FAPA).

RADIO LUANDA SAID THE FORMATION OF THE AIR FORCE HAD
BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE MPLA PRESIDENT, DR. AGOSTINHO NETO.
DR. NETO HAD SAID: "WE ARE DAILY IMPROVING OUR DEFENSE
SYSTEM AND INCREASING OUR CAPACITY FOR ACTION."
HE ADDED THAT THE NEW AIR FORCE WOULD "TEACH THE ENEMY
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TO RESPECT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE ANGOLAN

NATION," ACCORDING TO THE RADIO.

OBSERVERS SAID THIS LAST COMMENT APPEARED TO BE AIMED AT SOUTH AFRICA, WHOSE ARMED FORCES ARE FIGHTING WITH THE WESTERN-BACKED NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA (UNITA) AND NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (FNLA) MOVEMENTS AGAINST THE MPLA.

IT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN SHIPPING MIG 21 AIRCRAFT TO LUANDA FOR ASSEMBLY BY THE MPLA. UNQUOTE

QUOTE: NETO ANNOUNCES CREATION OF ANGOLAN AIR FORCE
PA 12021 PARIS AFP IN SPANISH 1933 GMT 21 JAN 76 PA

(TEXT) LUANDA, 21 JAN-- PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO TODAY OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF ANGOLA'S POPULAR AIR FORCE (FUERZA AEREA POPULAR DE ANGOLA--FAPA).

UPON ANNOUNCING THE CREATION OF THE AIR FORCE, NETO SAID THAT IT IS ANOTHER INSTRUMENT PLACED AT THE SERVICE OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE TO DEFEND THE GAINS OF THE REVOLUTION AND GUARANTEE PEACE AND PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

HE ADDED, IN OUR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN LACKING.

DURING THE CEREMONY, WHICH WAS NOT ATTENDED BY ANY NEWSMEN, THREE PLANES PERFORMED DEMONSTRATIONS FOR SEVERAL MINUTES. UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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